

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE AND THE COUNCIL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION OF THE UMJINDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Introduction

1. I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Umjindi Local Municipality (municipality) which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008, income statement and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, and the chief financial officer's report, as set out on pages XX to XX.

Responsibility of the accounting officer for the financial statements

2. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the entity-specific basis of accounting, as set out in accounting policy note 1 and in the manner required by the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act, 2007 (Act No. 1 of 2007) (DoRA). This responsibility includes:
 - designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
 - selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies
 - making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Responsibility of the Auditor-General

3. As required by section 188 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 read with section 4 of the Public Audit Act, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA), my responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.
4. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing and *General Notice 616 of 2008*, issued in *Government Gazette No. 31057 of 15 May 2008*. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance on whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
5. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

6. An audit also includes evaluating the:
 - appropriateness of accounting policies used
 - reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management
 - overall presentation of the financial statements.
7. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Basis of accounting

8. The municipality's policy is to prepare financial statements on the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practices (GRAP) and Standards of Generally Accepted Municipal Accounting Practices (GAMAP) prescribed by the Minister of Finance in terms of *General Notices 991 and 992 of 2005*, as set out in accounting policy note 1.

Opinion

9. In my opinion the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Umjindi Local Municipality as at 30 June 2008 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practices (GRAP) and Standards of Generally Accepted Municipal Accounting Practices (GAMAP) prescribed by the Minister of Finance in terms of *General Notices 991 and 992 of 2005*, as set out in accounting policy note 1 and in the manner required by the MFMA and DoRA.

OTHER MATTER

Without qualifying my audit opinion, I draw attention to the following matters that relate to my responsibilities in the audit of the financial statements.

Matters of governance

10. The MFMA tasks the accounting officer with a number of responsibilities concerning financial and risk management and internal control. Fundamental to achieving this is the implementation of certain key governance responsibilities, which I have assessed as follows:

Matter of governance	Yes	No
Audit committee		
• The municipality had an audit committee in operation throughout the financial year.	X	
• The audit committee operates in accordance with approved, written terms of reference.	X	
• The audit committee substantially fulfilled its responsibilities for the year, as set out in section 166(2) of the MFMA.	X	
Internal audit		
• The municipality had an internal audit function in operation throughout the financial year.	X	
• The internal audit function operates in terms of an approved internal audit plan.	X	
• The internal audit function substantially fulfilled its responsibilities for the	X	

Matter of governance	Yes	No
year, as set out in section 165(2) of the MFMA.		
Other matters of governance		
• The annual financial statements were submitted for audit as per the legislated deadlines in section 126 of the MFMA.	X	
• The annual report was submitted to the auditor for consideration prior to the date of the auditor's report.		X
• The financial statements submitted for audit were not subject to any material amendments resulting from the audit.	X	
• No significant difficulties were experienced during the audit concerning delays or the unavailability of expected information and/or the unavailability of senior management.	X	
• The prior year's external audit recommendations have been substantially implemented.	X	
Implementation of Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP)		
• The municipality submitted an implementation plan, detailing progress towards full compliance with GRAP, to the National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury before 30 October 2007.	X	
• The municipality substantially complied with the implementation plan it submitted to the National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury before 30 October 2007, detailing its progress towards full compliance with GRAP.	X	
• The municipality submitted an implementation plan, detailing further progress towards full compliance with GRAP, to the National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury before 31 March 2008.	X	

OTHER REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

REPORT ON PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

11. I have reviewed the performance information as set out on pages xx to xx.

Responsibility of the accounting officer for the performance information

12. In terms of section 121(3)(c) of the MFMA, the annual report of a municipality must include the annual performance report of the municipality prepared by the municipality in terms of section 46 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000) (MSA).

Responsibility of the Auditor-General

13. I conducted my engagement in accordance with section 13 of the PAA read with *General Notice 616 of 2008*, issued in *Government Gazette No. 31057 of 15 May 2008* and section 45 of the MSA.

14. In terms of the foregoing my engagement included performing procedures of an audit nature to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about the performance information and related systems, processes and procedures. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement.

15. I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the audit findings reported below.

Audit findings (performance information)

Non-compliance with regulatory requirements

Annual performance report

16. The municipality did not submit the annual performance report of the municipality prepared by the municipality in terms of section 46 of the MSA, as required by section 121(3)(c) of the MFMA for audit purposes.

APPRECIATION

17. The assistance rendered by the staff of the municipality during the audit is sincerely appreciated.

Nelspruit

28 November 2008

